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Report on the Budget 2013 Consultations

Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

NOVEMBER 2012

November 14, 2012

To the Honourable
Legislative Assembly of the
Province of British Columbia

Honourable Members:

I have the honour to present herewith the Third Report of the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services.

The Report covers the work of the Committee in regard to the Budget 2013 consultations, and was approved unanimously by the Committee.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Committee,

Douglas Horne, MLA
Chair

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Composition of the Committee

Members

Douglas Horne, MLA	Chair	Coquitlam-Burke Mountain
Mable Elmore, MLA	Deputy Chair	Vancouver-Kensington
Bill Bennett, MLA*		Kootenay East
Gary Coons, MLA		North Coast
Marc Dalton, MLA		Maple Ridge-Mission
Doug Donaldson, MLA*		Stikine
Dave S. Hayer, MLA		Surrey-Tynehead
John Les, MLA		Chilliwack
Pat Pimm, MLA		Peace River North
Bruce Ralston, MLA		Surrey-Whalley
Bill Routley, MLA		Cowichan Valley
John Slater, MLA		Boundary-Similkameen
Dr. Moira Stilwell, MLA*		Vancouver-Langara
Jane Thornthwaite, MLA*		North Vancouver-Seymour

*Committee Member to September 17, 2012

Clerks to the Committee

Kate Ryan-Lloyd, Deputy Clerk and Clerk of Committees

Susan Sourial, Committee Clerk

Research Staff

Byron Plant, Committee Research Analyst

Assisted by Matthew Cleeves, Dirk van Duyn, Julie McClung, and Gordon Robinson

Executive Summary

The public consultations on next year's provincial budget took place between September 13 and October 18, 2012. During this period, the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (the Committee) held 19 public hearings across the province, including one videoconference hearing covering three communities. In addition, the Committee invited written submissions and responses to an on-line survey posted on the Committee's website. Overall, 811 submissions were made to the Committee addressing a wide range of topics relating to Budget 2013.

Based on issues raised by many different groups from around the province, this report makes a total of 29 recommendations for government to consider as part of the next provincial budget. These are divided into the six general areas of fiscal policy, health, education and skills training, community and social services, economic development, and other budget priorities.

On fiscal policy, the Committee endorses the government's plan to balance the budget, as outlined in the budget consultation paper. Additional recommendations are aimed at addressing taxation issues and enhancing BC business competitiveness, key concerns as the province prepares to moves back to the PST/GST system on April 1, 2013.

This report also makes several recommendations on social program spending. In the areas of health and education, the two largest areas of budgetary expenditure, the Committee suggests ways to address high-need areas and to expand programs and services with proven track records of success. As well, to mitigate BC's skills shortage, the Committee endorses renewed emphasis on linking public education and skills training with emerging labour market opportunities. Other recommendations propose enhancements to community and social services. These focus on building upon best practices and supporting community-based service providers.

The importance of natural resources to the provincial economy, a prominent message in the budget consultation paper, is discussed in the section on economic development. Recommendations in this section offer ways to capitalize on opportunities for new resource development, particularly with respect to mining and natural gas developments in northern regions of the province.

The final section covers other budget priorities and includes recommendations on topics such as the justice system, employment programs and standards, farmers' markets, and aquatic invasive species.

Budget 2013 Consultation Process

On October 3, 2011, the Legislative Assembly approved a motion instructing the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services (the Committee) to examine, inquire into, and make recommendations with respect to the budget consultation paper prepared by the Ministry of Finance. Pursuant to section 3 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*, the paper, on being made public, stands referred to Committee. The Committee must then conduct consultations as it considers appropriate and make public a report on the results of those consultations by November 15.

This year's consultation began with the release of the budget consultation paper by the Ministry of Finance. The paper, issued in conjunction with the first *Quarterly Report* for 2012/13, was referred to the Committee on September 13, 2012.

Budget 2013 Consultation Paper

Section 3 of the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act* requires the Minister of Finance to make public a budget consultation paper by September 15 in each year. The paper must include a fiscal forecast, key issues to be addressed in the next provincial budget, and information on how members of the public may provide their views on those issues.

This year's paper, "Balancing the Budget by 2013/14", described how, amid challenging economic times resulting from the global economic downturn of 2008, government remains committed to balancing the provincial budget next year. This will require government to look at every means possible to help make life more affordable for BC families, including keeping taxes low and creating new opportunities through the BC Jobs Plan. Government continues to make controlling spending a priority.

The paper outlined other current government priorities, which include providing affordable personal income tax rates for families, and ongoing investments in education and health. Efforts to stimulate the economy were also noted, such as job creation through the BC Jobs Plan, strengthening infrastructure to get goods to market, and expanding markets for BC products and services, particularly in Asia. The province has also committed to developing a liquefied natural gas export industry that is expected to support jobs and economic opportunities across the province, especially in the north.

Updated Fiscal Plan

The updated fiscal plan, adjusted to account for reduced natural gas royalties, states that the province is forecasting balanced budgets over the next two fiscal years, including a surplus of $235 million in 2014/15. The taxpayer-supported debt-to-GDP ratio is expected to increase from the current 17.4 percent to 18.1 percent in 2013/14, and 18.3 percent in 2014/15. Real GDP growth will grow from 1.8 percent to 2.3 percent over the next two fiscal years.

Budget Consultation Questions

The budget consultation paper asked British Columbians to submit their ideas on Budget 2013 and to answer the following six questions:

1. Are there areas where government spends money that you think could be spent more effectively or reduced to keep life affordable for British Columbians?

2. In 2013/14 the province is projecting to spend over $44 billion. Do you think government has allocated the right level of resources to each of these priority areas? (Health 42%; Education 27%; Social Services 8%; Other 23%)

3. Government will need to adopt revenue and/or expense measures to manage the deterioration of lower natural gas royalty revenues and balance the budget by 2013/14. What opportunities do you think there are to address this fiscal challenge?

4. How do we create the jobs future generations will depend on?

5. What would you like to see your government do to create the conditions necessary for jobs and economic growth?

6. How can we maintain BC as a safe haven for investors?

Finance Minister's Briefing

On September 17, 2012, the Finance Minister provided a briefing to the Committee. The presentation included an overview of the first *Quarterly Report* for 2012/13, which revealed the extent of falling commodity prices, particularly the drop in natural gas prices. Revenues initially estimated to be in the $1.9 billion range have been reduced by $1.1 billion, creating significant cost pressures for government as it works to balance the budget in the next fiscal year.

The Minister discussed changes to BC's main export markets, such as growing trade with Asia, and efforts to diversify and expand trade with new partners such as India. He also cautioned the Committee about the impact of economic uncertainty in international markets such as Europe and China, along with the growing threat of high family debt, on economic recovery.

Expert Panel on BC's Business Tax Competitiveness

In January 2012, the Minister of Finance appointed the Expert Panel on Business Taxation "to provide analysis and recommendations to the Province on business tax competitiveness and administrative improvements to streamline the Provincial Sales Tax." The panel's final report, *Report of the Expert Panel on BC's Business Tax Competitiveness*, was submitted to government on August 31, 2012. It contains 38 recommendations designed to enhance provincial taxation policy within a revenue-neutral framework. On September 17, 2012, the Finance Minister referred the report to the Committee to consider as part of its province-wide consultations on the budget.

Members of the expert panel were invited to appear before the Committee on October 1, 2012. At the meeting, Sarah Morgan-Silvester (Panel Chair), Grace Wong, and Fiona Macfarlane discussed key recommendations and answered questions by Members.

Consultation Methods

During the consultation period, traditional methods of obtaining public input were combined with innovative technologies to enhance opportunities for public participation. As in previous years, the Committee travelled and held public hearings throughout the province. Video-conferencing was also used to gather input from more remote communities. In addition to the hearings, the Committee accepted written submissions by email, on-line form, fax, and letter mail, including audio and video files. As in previous years, British Columbians could also participate by completing a short on-line questionnaire.

A new Committee webpage was launched in conjunction with the start of the consultation process. The webpage, located at http://www.leg.bc.ca/budgetconsultations, included information on the work of the Committee, along with links to reports and transcripts of public hearings and proceedings. For the second year in a row, the work of the Committee was also publicized on Facebook.

Public Hearing Presentations

Between September 17 and October 18, 2012, the Committee held 19 public hearings in communities across the province. The schedule also included a half-day meeting in Victoria where videoconferencing was used to hear oral presentations from witnesses in Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, and Salmon Arm. One additional public hearing, scheduled for Osoyoos on September 19, 2012, was cancelled due to low registration.

On September 7, 2012, the Committee issued a media release announcing the locations of the public hearings, which was posted on the Committee's new website. Newspaper advertisements were also placed in regional newspapers. All public hearing dates and locations are listed in the schedule of meetings on page 5.

In total, the Committee heard 214 oral presentations from a range of individuals and organizations representing business, industry, local government, labour, and other sectors. All of the presenters are listed in Appendix A.

Written Submissions

This year, 311 written submissions were received by email, fax, and letter mail, including two video submissions. Form letter submissions were also received on the topics of the carbon tax and Port Mann Bridge tolling policy. Individuals and organizations with written submissions are listed in Appendix B.

On-line Survey Responses

The public also had the opportunity to respond electronically to the six questions contained in the budget 2013 consultation paper, including this multiple-choice question:

> Government will need to adopt revenue and/or expense measures to manage the deterioration of lower natural gas royalty revenues and balance the budget by 2013/14. What opportunities do you think there are to address this fiscal challenge?

The following is a tally of responses received:

- Find further efficiencies in other areas of service delivery? (131 responses)
- Hold the line on public sector wage increases? (35 responses)
- Increase revenue through other measures? (179 responses)
- Make changes to government programs to reduce spending? (73 responses)

Appendix C lists the names of the 286 individuals and organizations that participated in the on-line survey.

Meetings Schedule

May 31, 2012	Organizational Meeting	Victoria
September 17, 2012	Public Hearing	Surrey
September 18, 2012	Public Hearing	Castlegar
September 18, 2012	Public Hearing	Cranbrook
September 19, 2012	Public Hearing	Kelowna
September 20, 2012	Public Hearing	Vernon
September 25, 2012	Videoconferencing hearing	Victoria
	Dawson Creek, Fort Nelson, and Salmon Arm	
October 1, 2012	Public Hearing	Vancouver
October 2, 2012	Public Hearing	Coquitlam
October 2, 2012	Public Hearing	Abbotsford
October 3, 2012	Public Hearing	Fort St. John
October 3, 2012	Public Hearing	Quesnel
October 4, 2012	Public Hearing	Kamloops
October 15, 2012	Public Hearing	Prince Rupert
October 15, 2012	Public Hearing	Kitimat
October 16, 2012	Public Hearing	Smithers
October 16, 2012	Public Hearing	Prince George
October 17, 2012	Public Hearing	Courtenay
October 17, 2012	Public Hearing	Parksville
October 18, 2012	Public Hearing	Victoria
October 29, 2012	Deliberations	Victoria
October 30, 2012	Deliberations	Victoria
November 13, 2012	Deliberations	Victoria
	Adoption of Report	

Fiscal Policy

Matters relating to provincial fiscal policy, including government spending priorities and taxation, were raised in numerous submissions to the Committee on Budget 2013. Business associations, chambers of commerce, industry representatives, and labour groups offered a variety of suggestions for the Committee to consider as the province moves to balance its budget and return to the PST/GST system on April 1, 2013. The Committee also heard a number of recommendations concerning PST re-implementation, business taxation competitiveness, corporate and income tax rates, and the future of the carbon tax.

Balanced Budget

> *"The one thing that government can do to really restore and boost optimism in the state of business confidence is to keep the budget balanced. That's the one thing that we hear consistently from our members."* (Shachi Kurl, Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Coquitlam public hearing)

This year's budget consultation paper stated that government intends to return to a balanced budget by 2013/14, despite declining natural gas royalty revenues and long-term fiscal challenges resulting from the global economic downturn of 2008. The 2013/14 target for balancing the budget, stated in last year's budget consultation paper, was endorsed in the Committee's report.

During the consultations on Budget 2013, the Committee heard a strong message from the business community on the need for government to follow through with this commitment. Representatives from the BC Business Council, Chamber of Commerce, Vancouver Board of Trade, and other industry associations emphasized the need for fiscal prudence and economic competitiveness. The Canadian Federation of Independent Business, which represents 10,000 independent members in BC, stressed how a balanced budget would send a clear signal to international investors that the province is a safe haven for investment in a troubled global economy.

Expert Panel on Business Taxation

> *"We encourage the Committee and the government to carefully review the Expert Panel on Business Taxation's analysis and recommendations."* (Ken Peacock, Business Council of British Columbia, Victoria public hearing)

In January 2012, the Minister of Finance appointed the Expert Panel on Business Taxation to identify ways to maintain and improve BC's economic competitiveness, while respecting the 2011 referendum result to return to the PST/GST system. In addition to examining taxation competitiveness and administration issues, the panel was instructed to make recommendations that were fiscally neutral and sustainable within BC's balanced budget framework.

During the course of the consultations, the Committee received submissions addressing several of the report's 38 recommendations. For example, some industry associations called on government to endorse the panel's recommendation to provide a fully refundable capital investment tax credit equal to the PST paid on machinery and equipment. It was also suggested that government undertake an open, transparent public discussion on alternatives to PST, such as a made-in-BC value-added tax. Other groups rejected specific recommendations of the report, such as the proposal to introduce a resource revenue surcharge to help offset the cost of a new investment tax credit, and the recommendation to increase corporate income tax rates by 0.5 percent. More generally, several industry and business associations lauded the report's recommendations to reduce compliance costs on business through measures aimed at streamlining PST.

PST Administration

> *"The current government has a unique opportunity to take the steps necessary to streamline and implement efficiencies to ensure that in returning to the PST we create a more competitive tax environment and make the PST a more effective tax to fund services for British Columbians."* (Mark Startup, Retail Council of Canada and Shelfspace, Abbotsford public hearing)

On April 1, 2013, the province will return to the PST/GST system, pursuant to the results of the 2011 referendum to eliminate the HST. The enabling legislation, the *Provincial Sales Tax Act*, received Royal Assent on May 31, 2012. Government has committed to re-implementing all permanent exemptions under the previous PST system.

Several submissions from business groups highlighted a need to streamline how the re-implemented PST will be administered. Industry associations and local chambers of commerce, for example, stressed how going back to PST will mark a return to a less efficient tax, one that will increase the administrative burden on business. It was also stated that streamlining PST administration, as recommended in the report of Expert Panel on Business Taxation, could be done quickly and at little cost to the provincial treasury.

Carbon Tax Review

> *"With no other jurisdictions having followed BC's leadership, it's incumbent on the government to review where negative impacts can be determined and discussions undertaken with these impacted sectors to find way to mitigate the impact of the carbon tax itself."* (John Winter, British Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Vancouver public hearing)

In February 2012, the Finance Minister stated that government would be undertaking a comprehensive review of the carbon tax. The announced review included examination of the carbon tax's revenue neutrality and impact on BC business competitiveness, specifically the agricultural sector and BC food producers. A call for written submissions was issued on June 27, 2012. The carbon tax – which applies to fuels sold in BC – has been increased annually since its introduction on July 1, 2008 as part of the government's Climate Action Plan. The last legislated increase to the carbon tax took place on July 1, 2012.

A significant number of submissions were made to the Committee on the subject of the carbon tax. Public hearing presentations, written submissions, and on-line survey responses discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the tax, and proposed different suggestions for its future. For example, several industry groups stated that the carbon tax reduces their competitiveness and requested that the current rate be maintained or lowered. Other associations, such as the BC Agriculture Council and BC Grain Producers Association, called for industry-specific exemptions. In addition, some northern business operators asked for elimination of the carbon tax since it reduces their competitiveness with other jurisdictions like Alberta, which does not have such a tax.

In contrast, environmental and sustainable energy organizations called for continuation and expansion of the carbon tax. The Pembina Institute and David Suzuki Foundation, for instance, cited the effectiveness of the tax, including its environmental and economic benefits. These groups requested that the tax be continually increased and broadened to apply to all greenhouse gas emissions in BC. Recommendations were also made to use additional revenues from increases to the carbon tax for targeted investments in energy-efficient retrofits, "green" infrastructure development, and public transit.

Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit

> *"Current provincial government policy with respect to tax credits for our industry is so non-competitive that the largest economic opportunity of our lifetime is migrating away from BC."*
> (Lance Davis, BC Interactive, Written submission)

BC is home to a world-renowned video game industry. The industry has been estimated to include more than 60 developers and numerous support-service providers with an employment base of more than 4,000 professionals.

During the consultations, the Committee heard about the need to maintain BC as a competitive destination for industry growth and investment. The BC Interactive Task Force, an alliance of video game industry representatives, described the importance of tax incentives to interactive digital media development in the province. Several recommendations were proposed, including increasing the Interactive Digital Media Tax Credit, an industry-specific tax credit program, to 35 percent to enhance competitiveness with other jurisdictions.

Conclusions

The Committee is mindful of the importance of maintaining fiscal discipline and controlling spending amid this time of economic recovery. Accordingly, the Committee endorses the government's plan to return to a balanced budget, a key theme in this year's budget consultation paper.

On taxation, the Committee continues to recognize the challenges of moving back to the PST/GST system, particularly with respect to BC business competitiveness. To mitigate the impact of this transition on the business sector, the Committee encourages the Minister of Finance to give due consideration to the recommendations of the Expert Panel on Business Tax Competitiveness. The

Committee also proposes examining other ways to streamline the PST while maintaining the commitment to return to PST/GST system pursuant to the results of the referendum on the HST.

Last year's report on Budget 2012 included a recommendation to review the impacts of the carbon tax on business and to develop a strategy to keep BC businesses competitive with other jurisdictions. The subsequent review announced by the Minister of Finance coincided with this year's budget consultations and a significant number of responses were received from the public and industry on the future of the carbon tax. Accordingly, the Committee encourages the Finance Minister to consider these submissions as part of his review.

Lastly, the Committee wishes to acknowledge the importance of the interactive digital media and video gaming industry to BC. Our hope is that this industry, one of the most dynamic sectors in the provincial economy, continues to play a prominent role in the future.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Fiscal Policy

1. Balance the provincial budget by 2013/14.
2. Consider the recommendations of the Expert Panel on BC's Business Tax Competitiveness.
3. Look for opportunities to streamline the administration of PST, particularly as it relates to the business sector, while maintaining the principle of returning to the PST as it existed prior to HST implementation.
4. Consider, as part of the Finance Minister's Carbon Tax Review, the submissions received by this Committee on the carbon tax.

Health

The provincial health care system, which accounts for 42 percent of provincial budget spending, received considerable attention during the consultation process. Community service providers, seniors and concerned citizens, medical and health professionals, and other organizations forwarded a number of requests to the Committee on a range of health-related topics. These included recommendations to: fund specific health care services at the community level, address physician shortages, expand treatment options for addiction, and develop safe water infrastructure. These submissions, along with the high number of on-line survey responses on health care topics, indicate that heath care spending remains a high priority for British Columbians.

Community Hospices

> *"Please give serious consideration to developing the appropriate policy changes that will provide equitable funding for hospice facilities and care, as it does for acute care."* (Donalda Carson, Prince George Hospice Society, Prince George public hearing)

Local community hospices provide palliative and end-of-life care services throughout the province, often through the dedicated work of trained volunteers. Hospice societies are funded through a variety of sources, including regional health authorities, community gaming grants, fundraising and donations, and hospice thrift shops.

As in previous years, several community hospice societies participated in the consultations. A common concern raised was the lack of an equitable funding model for hospices, particularly with respect to regional health authorities. During public hearings on Vancouver Island, for instance, members of the Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices pointed out significant differences in the levels of funding provided to community hospices, both within and between regional health authorities. It was also observed that some hospices, such as those under the Fraser Health Authority, receive annual core funding. In contrast, Vancouver Island Health Authority provides contracted funding that is not guaranteed from year to year. Other concerns raised by hospice groups included the charging of "per-diem" fees for patients and the implementation of the 2006 Provincial Framework for End-of-Life Care.

Homecare Services

> *"People want to stay in their own homes. They don't want to go to a facility, but they have major difficulty getting enough care hours. Rural elderly people are not always able to get home care."* (Margaret Little, Save Our Northern Seniors, Fort St. John public hearing)

Homecare services in BC comprise a range of health and support services designed to allow people to remain at home instead of in more expensive hospital beds or other care options. Last year, the Committee heard how homecare services result in cost savings and recommended in its report that these services be increased.

In its travels to BC communities, the Committee heard about issues affecting seniors. In Abbotsford, for example, the Alzheimer Society of British Columbia discussed the prevalence of Alzheimer's disease and dementia, and requested support for its First Link treatment program. At the Fort St. John public hearing, the Committee also heard about the need for enhanced homecare services. One group, Save Our Northern Seniors, noted how the elderly want to stay in their own homes but have difficulty getting enough care, particularly in rural areas. New approaches and incentives were said to be needed to encourage people to enter the field of home support. The Committee also heard a community health care worker stress the need to increase funding for homecare programs.

Foreign-Trained BC Medical Students

> *"Physician shortages in our rural and remote communities continue, and while innovative programs are making some headway, we need to continue to place emphasis on this key area."* (Dr. William Cunningham, British Columbia Medical Association, Surrey public hearing)

The subject of physician shortages, particularly in rural BC communities, was raised by several presenters during the consultations. At public hearings in the interior, for example, the Wellness in Northern BC Taskforce and the Quesnel Chamber of Commerce spoke about the need to create incentives to attract doctors and specialists to high need areas.

The issue of physician shortages also arose at the Surrey public hearing, where the BC Medical Association called for better alignment of BC medical schools training programs with health system and community needs. Committee Members also inquired about the limited opportunities for British Columbians trained in foreign medical schools to return to the province to take up internship and residency positions.

Addictions Treatment

> *"By redirecting dollars to more upstream services with community-based agencies, more people with substance use problems will be helped earlier, people who may otherwise continue to use and require more costly health services later on."* (Sian Lewis, Phoenix Centre - Kamloops Society for Alcohol and Drug Services, Kamloops public hearing)

It has been estimated that approximately 33,000 British Columbians are struggling with dependence on illicit drugs, and as many as 344,000 are either dependent or have a high probability of becoming dependent on alcohol. Addiction treatment services are provided by the BC Mental Health and Addiction Services, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority. Treatment services are also provided by community non-profit societies that operate centres through funding from regional health authorities and the Ministry of Children and Family Development.

During the consultations, the Committee learned about the prevalence of addiction and substance abuse in BC. Community service providers in Quesnel and Prince Rupert, for example, cited high demand for their services and the need for additional resources for detox beds, treatment centres, and transition services. While in Kamloops, the Committee heard about innovative treatment practices at

the Phoenix Centre, a facility operated by the Kamloops Society for Alcohol and Drug Services. In its presentation to the Committee, the society described the effectiveness of adopting a community health and wellness approach that uses flexible "up-stream" programming for treating harmful substance use. In particular, the successful pilot Community Detox and Stabilization Program was highlighted, which allows withdrawal outpatients to remain at home, continue working, and be contributing members of society while receiving treatment for their illness. It was stated that the program, which operates in partnership with the Interior Health Authority, could serve 500 patients a year at $350 per person for three months of care.

Kelowna Water Infrastructure

> *"Kelowna right now is the largest populated area in the province that still has a large number of water quality advisories and/or boil-water notices in the spring. That happens with the turbidity in the creeks and the lack of filtration on those systems or alternate sources by which we can provide domestic water to households."* (Bob Hrasko, Kelowna Joint Water Committee, Kelowna public hearing)

At the Kelowna public hearing the Committee heard from the Kelowna Joint Water Committee, a partnership of five water utilities. Presenters described several challenges to the development of local water infrastructure, including difficulties in meeting Interior Health Authority drinking water standards, the high cost of water quality upgrades on land within the Agricultural Land Reserve, and ministry policies restricting the ability of Improvement Districts to access funding for water projects.

Representatives from the joint committee stated that the five Kelowna water utilities have completed a comprehensive plan for addressing Kelowna's water supply needs, one that provides for the development of short- and long-term water supply solutions that are practical, cost effective, and in alignment with Interior Health Authority regulations and provincial objectives. It was requested that the province contribute $30 million towards the $90 million project.

Conclusions

Over the course of the consultation period, the Committee heard how British Columbians continue to value quality public health care, including the services provided by community-based providers such as hospice societies. Accordingly, the Committee acknowledges the important end-of-life services provided by these groups. In light of the significant differences in funding provided to hospices, the Committee believes that the establishment of an equitable and predictable funding model is warranted.

The Committee also endorses targeting funds towards areas proven to be effective, particularly those that result in overall cost savings to government. Notable among these are homecare services, which are demonstrated to serve recipients' needs while reducing demand for hospital beds. As well, the Committee favours providing support for community-based addiction treatment providers using innovative community and wellness approaches. Lastly, programs like the Alzheimer Society's First

Link program that provide support and care also need to be supported, as they too reduce reliance on our healthcare system.

The Committee continues to be concerned about the limited local employment opportunities for British Columbians trained in foreign medical schools, a topic raised during previous years' consultations. With many rural and urban communities in need of physicians, government is urged to take the necessary steps to address this situation.

Lastly, the Committee acknowledges the need for water infrastructure investments Kelowna, and concurs that action be taken to implement water supply solutions in a practical and cost-effective manner that meets provincial and federal standards.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Health

5. Review the funding model for community hospices and ensure that funding is provided in an equitable and predictable manner.
6. Increase homecare services to save hospital costs as these services are less expensive than hospital beds.
7. Provide support for community-based agencies that provide addiction treatment services, using a community health and wellness approach.
8. Work with the BCMA and medical colleges to improve residency and internship opportunities for British Columbian medical students trained abroad.
9. Develop short- and long-term water supply solutions for the Kelowna and surrounding region so that quality drinking water is provided practically, cost effectively and to provincial and federal standards.

Education and Skills Training

Education comprises the second largest area of budgetary spending for the province. As in previous years, the provincial education system attracted considerable attention during the consultation period. Groups representing colleges and universities, K-12 school districts, teachers, students, parents, child welfare advocates, and businesses presented a number of ideas on how to continue and improve public education. Education topics also garnered the largest number of responses to the on-line survey.

A prominent theme heard by the Committee was the need to better connect public education with current and future labour market needs, both at the K-12 and post-secondary levels. Proposals were made to develop new programs targeting skills and trades training though partnerships with industry and other stakeholders. Other recommendations were made encouraging K-12 programs focusing on math and science and even distributions of Industry Training Authority funds to enhance training opportunities.

Several community and advocacy groups also made submissions to the Committee calling for measures to address child vulnerability and to improve immigrant youth school success. Additional education topics raised during the consultations included: funding for capital projects and equipment upgrades, issues relating to post-secondary accounting standards, and challenges to post-secondary student access and affordability.

Provincial Career Training Model

> *"What is needed is increased strategic and sustained funding to build capacity and produce more graduates annually in the areas of trades, technical skills training, business management, health, applied sciences, and social services. That will help ensure a supply of critically needed skilled, educated workers for the strategic requirements of the region."* (Laurie Rancourt, Northern Lights College, Dawson Creek, videoconference hearing)

Provincial labour market analyses indicate that BC is facing an unprecedented shortage of skilled labour, the result of an aging provincial population and fewer young people entering the labour market due to declining birth rates. This skilled labour shortage must be addressed if rates of economic growth are to match those of the past.

Over the course of the consultation period, submissions were made to the Committee stressing the need to better connect the public education system with current and future labour market demand. Representatives from industry and business sectors highlighted the relevance of science, technology, and trades curricula to economic development, including the ability to extract economic value from natural resources. Further to that message, presenters asked the Committee to encourage educational programming that allows people to stay in their own communities.

In particular, the Committee heard about the success of Northern Light College's Northern Opportunities initiative – a partnership between regional education, industry, community, and Aboriginal groups. This program allows secondary students to earn dual credits that can be applied towards both high school graduation and a post-secondary academic courses or vocational programs.

Child Vulnerability

> *"Researchers from UBC found that nearly a third of BC children arrive at kindergarten developmentally vulnerable, which could cost BC 20 percent in GDP growth over the next 60 years."* (Dr. David Hay, Federation of Community Social Services of BC, Vancouver public hearing)

Recent studies in BC have identified child vulnerability as a growing issue facing the province. For example, the 2009 report by the UBC Human Early Learning Partnership, *15 by 15: A Comprehensive Policy Framework for Early Human Capital Investment in BC*, estimated that 29 percent of children, including many from middle class backgrounds, are developmentally vulnerable when they start kindergarten. In its submission to the Committee, First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition stated that the rate increased to 31 percent in 2011. It was suggested that the high prevalence of child vulnerability carries significant long-term social and economic costs for the province.

Several teacher associations, including the British Columbia Teachers' Federation, described a significant growth in the number of children entering and currently enrolled in the school system with learning disabilities. Other provincial associations representing community social service providers, child development and intervention centres, and child care advocates talked about the importance of providing early learning supports to foster K-12 student success. Overall, submissions received by the Committee stressed the need to ensure that children are equipped to learn as they begin kindergarten.

Immigrant Student Graduation Rates

> *"The younger Filipinos are finding school challenging. They don't ask for help because they don't feel comfortable with the language, and they don't know how or where to go for help. And so they eventually drop out."* (Tulayan, Video submission)

Approximately 40,000 new immigrants arrive in BC each year, one in five of which are children. With many new immigrant families landing in the Lower Mainland, Metro Vancouver school districts have become increasingly multicultural. Contrary to the general trend of declining school enrolment across BC, school districts in areas such as Surrey are experiencing significant population growth.

The Committee heard about some of the unique challenges facing immigrant youth entering the BC school system. For example, a video submission from Tulayan, a Filipino community organization based in Vancouver, highlighted issues experienced by immigrant youth. Language barriers and

problems getting assistance, one youth interviewee noted, impairs K-12 success and leads to drop-outs. A written submission from the Richmond School District also talked about its high proportion of landed immigrant students from different cultural backgrounds. Other organizations, such as Success by 6 – a community-based early childhood development initiative – voiced how culturally-relevant programs are necessary to better serve immigrant children.

K-12 School Seismic Upgrades

> *"The province needs to advance the pace of capital funding for the Seismic Mitigation Program in order to ensure the safety of students and staff, and to ensure the sustainability of school buildings in the case of a significant seismic event."* (Patti Bacchus, Vancouver Board of Education, Vancouver public hearing)

Since 2001, over $840 million has been spent on seismic upgrades in 37 BC school districts. As of August 2012, 121 seismic projects were complete, 14 under construction, and eight proceeding to construction. Twenty-six additional projects are currently planned. The Ministry of Education's Seismic Mitigation Program, presently in Phase 2, provides structural upgrades for high-priority schools based on assessments of seismic safety risk.

Representatives from several provincial school boards raised the need for continued support to upgrade schools with seismic safety issues. The Vancouver School Board, for example, stated that 61 of its 109 schools are in need of seismic upgrading or replacement. The province was requested to provide sufficient capital to upgrade or replace high-risk schools and to advance the pace of funding for the seismic program. Other groups, including the Richmond Board of Education and the Ad Hoc Committee on Capital Funding for Surrey Schools, also raised the issue of seismic upgrades in Lower Mainland schools.

Accounting Standards

> *"In our 2011 submission, we identified several areas where fiscal and accounting policy created challenges for our institutions. ... Resolution of these technical accounting matters is vital in order for us to be able to respond to the communities we serve and remain fiscally disciplined."* (Ruth Wittenberg, BC Association of Institutes and Universities, Written submission)

In 2004, BC colleges and universities began to be included as part of the government's budget and reporting framework. At that time, new accounting policies consistent with the government reporting entity (GRE) were extended to post-secondary institutions. Pursuant to the *Budget Transparency and Accountability Act*, organizations within the GRE are obligated to follow generally accepted accounting principles, or GAAP.

As in previous years, representatives from BC's colleges and universities told the Committee about issues relating to mandatory accounting practices. These include limitations on the ability of colleges and universities to access surplus earnings and outside capital, such as for the construction of new infrastructure projects. In addition to presentations from various colleges and universities, the BC

Association of Institutes and Universities wrote to the Committee urging for a resolution of the fiscal and accounting standards issues that continue to create challenges for post-secondary institutions.

Post-secondary Student Access and Affordability

> *"Financial aid should be used to help those who cannot afford their post-secondary education enter the system and get a degree or diploma. If aid is distributed properly, students will be able to leave university or college without massive debt and be able to pay into tomorrow's education system through taxes."* (Katie Marocchi, Canadian Federation of Students - British Columbia, Coquitlam public hearing)

Over 1,900 programs are offered to students at BC's 25 publicly-funded post-secondary universities, colleges, and institutes. Student financial assistance is administered through the StudentAid BC program. Available assistance options include joint federal-provincial loans, grants and scholarships, and other loan repayment programs.

Post-secondary access and affordability continue to be areas of concern to British Columbians. As in previous years, the Committee heard a consistent message from student groups, administrators, and faculty about the need to ensure that BC has a universally accessible and high-quality post-secondary system. To address affordability issues, it was requested that government provide interest-free BC student loans, up-front need-based provincial student grants, and reduced tuition fees. The problem of student debt and rising textbook costs were also highlighted in submissions, along with the unique transportation needs of students attending northern and rural institutions.

Public Libraries

> *"Reinstating the separate line item for public libraries would demonstrate the government's support for public libraries and show that the government recognizes the value of an educated and engaged citizenry. This is what libraries help build and sustain in their communities."* (June Stockdale, BC Library Association, Written submission)

Public library facilities provide important information services to more than 360 communities across the province. While public libraries are predominantly funded by local governments, the provincial government provides annual per-capita operating grants to public libraries through the budget of the Ministry of Education. Provincial grants to libraries in the 2011/12 fiscal year totalled $9.7 million.

During the consultation period, the Committee heard local public libraries and the BC Library Association voice concerns about recent changes to how the province records funding for public libraries in the budget. It was noted how provincial funding for public libraries, previously a separate line item in the Ministry of Education budget, has since been rolled into the general budget for education programs. Oral and written submissions to the Committee called for the separate line item to be reinstated in the budget. Doing so, it was argued, would demonstrate the government's support for public libraries and the value of the services they provide.

Conclusions

With BC positioned to become a leader in both knowledge and resource-based economies, the Committee believes it is imperative that the provincial education system support current and anticipated growth opportunities. Particularly in northern communities, public education is needed to provide skills and training responsive to local labour market conditions. Accordingly, the Committee sees value in the development of a provincial career training model for the K-12 system that utilizes partnerships between education, industry, community, and Aboriginal stakeholders.

The Committee is particularly concerned about two alarming trends identified in submissions to the Committee, specifically with respect to high rates of learning disabilities, and the challenges faced by immigrant students. To maximize the success of all students entering the K-12 system, it is suggested that government commission new research into both of these areas. A better understanding of these trends and taking action on the issues identified will bring long-term social and economic benefits to the province.

The ability of K-12 and post-secondary institutions to finance much-needed capital projects remains of ongoing concern to the Committee. Accordingly, in addition to proposing that seismic upgrades to schools continue, the Committee again urges government to resolve fiscal and accounting standards that restrict post-secondary institutions and their ability to access needed capital.

Lastly, in recognition of the educational benefits of public libraries, the Committee believes that funding for public libraries should be reinstated as a separate line item in the provincial budget.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Education and Skills Training

10. Develop a provincial career-training model to meet the educational needs of high-school students, based on the Northern Opportunities partnership model, and fund it accordingly.
11. Commission research on the number of children entering kindergarten with developmental and learning challenges and take action on the results.
12. Undertake research into graduation rates for immigrant youth in the K-12 school system.
13. Continue support for seismic upgrades in K-12 schools.
14. Resolve fiscal and accounting standard issues that continue to create challenges for post-secondary institutions' ability to manage their budgets prudently and to access capital outside of government.
15. Continue to provide access to post-secondary education opportunities and address affordability issues affecting students.
16. Reinstate the separate budget line for public libraries.

Community and Social Services

As in previous years, the Committee received a significant number of submissions highlighting the need for strong community and social services. Sports organizations, community non-profit groups and service providers, and citizens from across the province discussed the benefits of these services in oral presentations, written submissions, and on-line survey responses. Many described the array of programs offered by community service providers, along with the need to maintain or supplement funding to meet increasing demands for service.

Funding for Sport Development

> *"We think that the $10 million annual legacy fund for sport is an effective and efficient investment in health, education, and community development in BC."* (Twyla Ryan, Sport BC, Cranbrook public hearing)

Introduced in Budget 2010 to build on the momentum of the Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, the 2010 Sport and Arts Legacy fund was created to support community engagement in youth sports and the arts. Sixty million dollars was distributed over three years through the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development, half of which targeted increased participation in sport. An annual sum of $10 million was allocated for sport development, with emphasis on youth and improved athlete and coach development, including several after school sport initiatives.

Provincial sport organizations appeared before the Committee requesting that the fund be continued. Associations, including Sport BC, ViaSport (formerly BC Sport Agency), Skate Canada British Columbia/Yukon, and KidSport BC asked for funding for sports to be continued in the next three-year budget plan and rolled into the base ministry budget. Several school-based groups also appeared before the Committee and praised the success of after-school programs made possible by the fund. It was noted how the initiative has promoted fitness and healthy lifestyles for students, particularly for at-risk and vulnerable youth.

Community Service Procurement/Contracts

> *"Government could make considerable savings and improve front-line service delivery by moving to multi-year contracts with accredited not-for-profit agencies like ourselves. It would reduce costs to our agency and allow us to refocus our energies on front-line service delivery instead of annual contract management."* (Lorraine Aitken, Comox Valley Child Development Association, Courtenay public hearing)

BC's non-profit community service providers deliver a wide range of social supports to families throughout the province. These include contracted programs for early child development, people with special needs, addictions treatment, and transition services and shelter.

Presentations were made to the Committee calling for changes to existing contract procurement and accounting requirements. In Port Coquitlam, for example, the Tri-City Transitions Society requested that government review and improve the RFP procurement policy which requires agencies to reapply for the right to keep providing services within communities. Coquitlam's SHARE Family and Community Services Society also asked for harmonization of contracting and reporting requirements to ease the administrative burden on organizations. On Vancouver Island, Nanaimo's Haven Society and the Comox Valley Child Development Association also called for the implementation of multi-year contracts and simplification of accountability and contracting processes.

Transition Houses and Women's Centres

> *"Our programs are becoming so pressed that it is almost impossible to cope and many agencies are considering no longer offering these vital services to their community."* (Gerry Dyble, Hope and Area Transition Society, Written submission)

Transition houses, safe homes, and second-stage housing programs support women experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, violence. In BC, these services are publicly funded through BC Housing, a provincial crown agency. Last year, approximately 16,000 women and children stayed at community-based transition houses and safe homes. Women's centres in BC also provide a range of programs and services for women, and are funded through community gaming grants, the Ministry of Justice, and other sources.

The Committee heard concerns from several not-for-profit service providers across the province about the lack of funding for transition houses and women's centres. In Prince Rupert, the North Coast Transition Society told the Committee that problems arise from funding uncertainty. A written submission from the Hope and Area Transition Society also stated that contracted funding levels have remained static for more than ten years for some agencies, despite increases to operating costs due to inflation. Similar requests for funding were heard from other groups in Quesnel, Kitimat, and the Tri-Cities. Groups noted how demands for services have been increasing, particularly in communities experiencing job losses and unemployment.

Aboriginal Friendship Centres

> *"Our clarion call has been for the establishment of an off-reserve Aboriginal strategy that has measurable actions attached to it and a long-term capacity fund of $3.1 million to support and build the efforts of the friendship centres in BC to respond to the ever-growing needs of the urban Aboriginal population."* (Paul Lacerte, BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, Victoria public hearing)

Located throughout the province, Aboriginal friendship centres provide important services to the 70-plus percent of the Aboriginal population living off-reserve. Funded by both the provincial and federal governments, friendship centres offer a range of social, cultural, educational, health, and child development programs and services. Last year, the Committee recommended in its report that long-term annualized funding be provided for friendship centres, and that a coordinated strategy be

developed for Aboriginal people living off-reserve. In the 2011 Throne Speech, the provincial government committed to development of an off-reserve Aboriginal action plan. On October 19, 2012, an agreement was signed between government and the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres to work together to develop and implement the plan.

This year, the Committee heard another strong call from Aboriginal friendship centres for expanded provincial funding. Several community friendship centres, along with the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, requested that the action plan include a long-term, annualized, $3.1 million investment in friendship centres.

Conclusions

The Committee recognizes the important social services provided by community-based organizations and the not-for-profit sector in BC. This includes the work of sports organizations, whose submissions to the Committee demonstrated how increased youth involvement in sport results in long-term health and fitness benefits. Accordingly, the Committee believes that funding for sports programs and after-school sports should be continued at the level provided by the 2010 Sport and Arts Legacy fund, which is currently in its last year of scheduled funding.

The Committee also requests that government ease the administrative burden for contracted community service providers. It is therefore suggested that government streamline the RFP procurement policy and consider the removal of monthly invoicing and payment systems for agencies that have been accredited for three or more consecutive years.

As well, the Committee is concerned by reported increases in the number of clients accessing transition houses and women's centres. Government is encouraged to provide the necessary resources to meet increased demands.

The Committee also recognizes the important services and programs provided by the province's many Aboriginal friendship centres. It is hoped that the recently-signed protocol between the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres and the provincial government facilitates continued successes in this area.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Community and Social Services

17. Continue annual funding for sport, as provided by the 2010 Sport and Arts Legacy Fund, in the next three-year budget plan and base budget of the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

18. Review and streamline the RFP procurement policy for not-for-profit community service providers, and consider eliminating the monthly invoicing and payment systems for agencies that have been accredited for three or more consecutive years.

19. Provide funding for transition houses and women's centres to meet increasing demands for community-based services.

Economic Development

Another key theme in this year's budget consultation paper was the importance of natural resources to the provincial economy. The paper stressed the need to take advantage of the province's vast natural resource potential, which requires opening up new trading markets and developing the liquefied natural gas export industry. In turn, enhanced royalty revenue streams will support government social program spending in areas such as health and education.

The Committee received a range of submissions relating to the province's natural resources. During its return visits to northern communities, for example, the Committee heard about the great economic potential of BC's oil and gas reserves, and the need to develop appropriate permitting and community infrastructure to facilitate expansion.

Several submissions were also made to the Committee stressing the need to invest in transportation infrastructure to facilitate economic and community growth. Major initiatives were mentioned – such as the Port Mann Bridge project and the recently-announced George Massey Tunnel replacement – along with the need for capital upgrades to ports, highways, and airports.

Other topics raised in public hearing presentations and written submissions to the Committee related to BC agriculture, forestry innovations, and development of clean energy solutions.

Permitting Backlog

> *"There is a need for continued investment in resourcing and capacity creation within the natural resources agencies. We have seen progress in the development of some new approaches to mine permitting in terms of process, and we would like to see that continuing."* (Katrina Briño, Mining Association of British Columbia, Kamloops public hearing)

Natural resource projects in BC are subject to permitting review and approval processes that can involve participation by different levels of government, provincial ministries and permitting agencies, and First Nations groups with traditional territories affected by the proposed project.

As in previous years, the Committee heard about ongoing issues relating to the permitting backlog. Industry representatives, such as the Mining Association of BC, Association for Mineral Exploration BC, and Imperial Metals Corporation, discussed how the backlog results in increased costs for business and lost opportunities for job creation and government revenues.

The BC Government and Service Employees' Union reported that, despite recent efforts to address the permitting backlog, still approximately 5,000 land, water, and mining permits remain outstanding in the system.

The Committee heard several requests to ensure that key permitting offices have the funds necessary to clear backlogged requests and to retain necessary expert staff. In their presentation at the Kitimat public hearing, the Haisla National Council also highlighted some of the challenges faced by First

Nations. They requested assistance in dealing with referrals, including 17 specific to the Pacific Trails Pipeline, a liquid natural gas transmission pipeline system serving the Kitimat Liquid Natural Gas terminal.

Community Infrastructure and Services

> *"We need a partnership of governments to come together to ensure predictable and reliable investment into infrastructure in the communities."* (Mayor Lori Ackerman, City of Fort St. John, Fort St. John public hearing)

Natural resource development, particularly in the northwest and northeast regions of the province, is poised to become increasingly significant component of the BC economy. Released in February this year, the BC Natural Gas Strategy estimated that development of liquefied natural gas is expected to produce approximately $20 billion in new private sector investment, including 800 long-term positions and 9,000 jobs during construction. As well, thousands of spin-off jobs are expected to be created in fields such as transportation, engineering, construction, and environmental management. Other northern developments, such as Prince Rupert's port – the closest North American port to Asia – are also set to see significant expansion.

As in previous years' consultations, several stakeholders from industry, chambers of commerce, and local government appeared before the Committee to discuss the impact of new economic development opportunities. Presenters, particularly in the north, stressed the need for appropriate planning and funding for community infrastructure and services needed for new residents. In particular, the Committee was requested to recommend that the province partner with other levels of government to ensure that necessary infrastructure and services be developed in areas anticipating high economic growth.

Transportation Infrastructure

> *"Ensuring that BC has world-class infrastructure to move Canada's goods efficiently and reliably to market will in turn create tens of thousands of new jobs, build our province, and give us the tools we need to prosper in the global economy."* (Duncan Wilson, Port Metro Vancouver, Written submission)

Provincial economic development is dependent on strong transportation infrastructure, whether in the form of new capital projects or replacements of aging structures. With BC currently positioned to see significant economic growth through natural resource development and international trade with Asia, it is imperative that transportation upgrades be provided in a timely and targeted manner to meet new opportunities.

Requests for transportation infrastructure upgrades were heard around the province, particularly in areas experiencing rapid natural resource development and in major transportation corridors and ports such as Metro Vancouver and Prince Rupert. Business groups and local operators in the north, for example, requested upgrades to facilitate oil and gas development and the flow of goods between

BC and Alberta. Requested projects included the twinning of Highways 2 and 97 from the Alberta border to Fort St. John, and the widening of Highway 16 between Prince George and Prince Rupert. The Committee also received submissions requesting upgrades to airports in hub communities such as Fort St. John.

In the Lower Mainland, the Committee heard support for the recently announced replacement of the George Massey Tunnel. In their written submission to the Committee, Port Metro Vancouver explained how the replacement would offer new opportunities for expanded trade through Fraser River terminals by permitting the passage of large ocean-going vessels. Other groups, such as the Gateway Council, which represents major transportation service providers, similarly endorsed the proposed replacement, along with the continuation of other tax incentives for business to develop port facilities.

Communications Infrastructure

> *"We encourage the province to continue to support initiatives in telecommunications and connecting the smaller remote communities of northern British Columbia through wireless technology and fibre."* (Ken Killcullen, Initiatives Prince George, Prince George public hearing)

Access to modern communications infrastructure, especially broadband Internet connectivity, plays an important component in both economic development and appropriate emergency preparedness. Broadband is used for both Internet and cellular telephone applications and offers numerous economic, educational, and health benefits to BC communities, particularly those located in remote and rural areas of the province.

The Committee received several submissions requesting improvements to broadband connectivity. The Prince George and Fort St. John chambers of commerce stressed the importance of improving Internet connectivity to foster stable business and economic development in their regions. Initiatives Prince George similarly urged the Committee to support connecting small, remote communities with wireless technology or fibre optic lines. BC Colleges, which represents the province's 11 public community colleges, also requested targeted annual funding that included internet connectivity improvements.

Conclusions

The Committee is cognizant of the province's great natural resource potential, particularly with respect to northern mining and natural gas. Accordingly, it is imperative that permits for proposed projects be processed in a timely manner. While encouraged by recent efforts to address the backlog, the Committee believes that supplementary resources should continue to be provided to key permitting ministries and agencies to clear the permitting backlog, as well as to retain much-needed expert staff.

The Committee also recognizes that job creation and economic development are dependent on the establishment of livable communities for workers. The provincial government is therefore encouraged to partner with other levels of government to ensure that appropriate community infrastructure and services are developed in areas anticipating major growth.

This year's budget consultation paper stated that job creation through the BC Jobs Plan includes strengthening infrastructure to get BC goods to market. The Committee concurs that BC's trade potential is contingent on the development of necessary transportation infrastructure. Support for infrastructure is therefore encouraged, particularly for high-priority projects that will enhance BC's international trade potential.

The Committee also sees broadband connectivity as a modern necessity for conducting business, as highlighted in submissions from rural communities. It is requested that improvements be made to Internet connectivity and cell phone coverage in high-need areas. Strong communications infrastructure is also vital to emergency preparedness, as demonstrated by recent events, including the 7.7 magnitude earthquake off the coast of Haida Gwaii and Hurricane Sandy on the eastern seaboard of the United States.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Economic Development

20. Ensure adequate resources are in place for key permitting ministries to eliminate the permitting backlog and also with particular focus to ensure the retention of expert staff so critical to the process.
21. Partner with other levels of government to ensure that appropriate community infrastructure and services are developed in areas anticipating major growth from natural resource development.
22. Continue providing funding for infrastructure development and target funds for high priority projects that will enhance BC's international trade potential.
23. Develop Internet connectivity and cell phone coverage to enhance economic development opportunities and emergency preparedness.

Other Budget Priorities

Over the course of the four-week consultation period, the Committee heard a wide range of recommendations on other topics. These included calls for increased funding for the justice system along with specific justice programs. Labour matters and employment standards, particularly as they relate to immigrant and temporary foreign workers, were also mentioned in both public hearing presentations and written submissions. As well, British Columbians called for assistance for farmers' markets and measures to mitigate threats to the environment posed by invasive species.

Justice System Funding

> *"Meaningful access to justice is as fundamental to a proper functioning of our society as is access to health care and access to education. In fact, it is the rule of law, the administration of justice and the ability to access justice that are the keys to ensuring that all the other social and economic structures of our society are protected."* (Kerry Simmons, Canadian Bar Association - BC Branch, Vancouver public hearing)

The provincial justice system comprises the laws, institutions, processes and programs involved in preventing and responding to criminal and other legal problems. It includes the provincial court system, along with legal aid services provided by the Legal Services Society. Funded by the provincial government, the Law Foundation of BC and the Notary Foundation of BC, legal aid may include the provision of legal information, advice, and representation for low income and disadvantaged British Columbians.

In its presentation to the Committee in Vancouver, the BC Branch of the Canadian Bar Association recommended that funding be provided to increase the number of FTE positions and allow for investments in technology and data collection. Both people and technology, the association stated, are required for a working justice system – not only for court but also for alternate dispute resolution processes. The association, along with other submitters to the Committee, also called for enhanced funding for legal aid and/or alternatives that provide for greater and cost-effective access.

Restorative Justice

> *"The general public would like meaningful reparation and quick, decisive action. Restorative justice can do that if it's given the resources."* (Michelle LaBoucane, North Peace Justice Society, Fort St. John public hearing)

Used either as an alternative or in addition to the traditional court system, the restorative justice program seeks to address victims' needs and hold offenders meaningfully accountable for their actions. Participants in these programs, often youth or first time offenders, must first accept responsibility for their role in an offence and the harm they have caused. Voluntary consent is also required from the victim. There are approximately 92 restorative justice programs and 32 Aboriginal justice programs administered across the province, some by community Aboriginal friendship centres.

The North Peace Justice Society appeared before the Committee in Fort St. John. The Committee heard how restorative justice programs result in high levels of victim satisfaction and rates of agreement completion by offenders. They also offer a significant cost saving over traditional court systems – roughly $400,000 per year in Fort St. John alone. On an average per-case basis, restorative justice costs were said to be $1,437, considerably less than traditional court costs, which amount to $7,405 in wages alone.

Provincial Nominee Program

> *"The province should commit additional resources to bolster the Provincial Nominee Program to ensure both employers and immigrants have a timely access to the Provincial Nominee Program."* (Manley McLachlan, BC Construction Association, Abbotsford public hearing, 335)

Administered by the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Innovation, in collaboration with Citizenship and Immigration Canada, the Provincial Nominee Program is designed to facilitate immigration of skilled workers. The program provides an accelerated application process for skilled and/or experienced workers, experienced business persons and their family members to attain permanent residency in BC.

A prominent theme heard during the consultation period was the need to adopt measures to address BC's growing skills shortage. The British Columbia Construction Association, for example, described how BC's aging workforce and growing number of retirements are creating significant demands for new workers, particularly in the construction sector. It was estimated that tens of thousands of new workers will be required over the coming eight years, about 36,000 of which will be needed replacements for aging workers. To address this looming shortage, the association requested that the provincial government reinforce its commitment to the Provincial Nominee Program and commit additional resources to ensure that both employers and immigrants have timely access.

Temporary Foreign Workers

> *"Temporary Foreign Workers have been subject to arbitrary and shifting employment conditions with little ability to defend themselves or seek alternative employment. These workers are often paid substantially less than their Canadian co-workers the working conditions are often significantly different from those promised in their contracts or by their recruiters."* (Jane Ordinario, Migrante-British Columbia, Written submission)

The Temporary Foreign Worker Program, administered by the federal Department of Human Resources and Skills Development, is designed to provide Canadian employers with access to foreign workers to address immediate skills and labour shortages. The program seeks to ensure that the employment of foreign workers supports economic growth and helps create more opportunities for all Canadians.

Submissions to the Committee stressed the need to streamline the process for employers seeking to access temporary foreign workers, particularly in areas of high demand. The Committee was also asked to ensure that these workers are afforded the same workplace protections as other BC residents. Migrante-British Columbia, a community-based Filipino organization, described how temporary foreign workers are more vulnerable to workplace abuse and exploitation, the result of the nature of their visa conditions and their unfamiliarity with Canadian labour laws. The Committee was urged to make sure that provincial employment standards and occupational health and safety regulations are properly enforced for temporary foreign workers.

Farmers' Markets

> *"Buying local products enhances our economy and supports our communities. Farmers markets provide low-cost, effective marketing channels and act as incubators for small producers and new farmers."* (Elizabeth Quinn, BC Association of Farmers' Markets, Abbotsford public hearing)

BC has seen significant growth in the number and success of farmers' markets in recent years. Farmers' markets, a key part of the buy-local food movement, have been described as providing health and social benefits, along with new business opportunities for local farms and food processing businesses. In April 2012, the BC Association of Farmers' Markets received $75,000 through the Ministry of Agriculture to support their strategic plan.

Appearing before the Committee in Abbotsford, the BC Association of Farmers' Markets stated that direct sales from farmers' markets are estimated to have increased from $46 million in 2006 to $108 million. In addition to citing the multifold benefits of farmers' markets, the association requested several ways to promote farmers' markets, such as ensuring that adequate funding is available at the Ministry of Agriculture to continue recent efforts.

Aquatic Invasive Species

> *"Invasive mussels pose a tremendous financial and environmental threat to the pristine water bodies of BC. Once introduced, these invasive species cannot be treated or removed."* (Marty Hafke, East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council, Cranbrook public hearing)

Invasive species are plants, animals, and micro-organisms that are transported beyond their natural range to become established in new areas. Invasive species pose a threat to native species populations, ecosystems, economic activities such as agriculture, forestry, and fishing, and, in some cases, human health.

Several submissions raised the looming threat of invasive species to BC marine areas as an issue requiring attention. The East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council, an organization that oversees invasive plant control on Crown land on behalf of provincial ministries, talked about how invasive bivalves, particularly zebra and quagga Mussels, pose a tremendous financial and environmental threat to BC waters. The Committee heard how these invasive species cannot be treated or removed.

The Council proposed that special legislation be implemented requiring all watercraft to be inspected at stations located on key transportation corridors. A presenter in Prince Rupert also mentioned how saltwater invasive species have become a greater threat as a result of increased shipping traffic to northern ports. The Committee was urged to advocate for the development of a strategy to deal with preventing and mitigating the impacts of water-borne invasive species.

Conclusions

The Committee concurs that the justice system requires stable and long term funding for the effective delivery of justice. This entails providing necessary support and programs to ensure equitable access and alternative dispute resolutions. The Committee also reaffirms last year's recommendation for government to enhance use of restorative justice programs, particularly as they offer significant cost savings and have proven social and community benefits.

The Committee also sees need for government action respecting the employment of immigrant and foreign workers. This includes working with the federal government to maximize the benefits of the Provincial Nominee Program in meeting the province's labour market needs. It is also suggested that protections under existing provincial employment standards and occupational health and safety regulations be appropriately applied to Temporary Foreign Workers.

The Committee also lauds the benefits provided by farmers' markets and believes that adequate funding should be made available to continue recent efforts to support this growing sector. Lastly, it is proposed that a strategy for dealing with aquatic invasive species be developed, covering both freshwater and saltwater species.

Recommendations

The Committee recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Other Budget Priorities

24. Provide stable and long-term funding for the justice system, including support and programs to ensure equitable access and alternative dispute resolutions.
25. Support and provide funding for restorative justice programs.
26. Make sure that the province achieves the most effective economic benefits from the Provincial Nominee Program in meeting BC labour market demands.
27. Work to ensure that employment standards and occupational health and safety regulations are extended to and enforced for temporary foreign workers residing in British Columbia.
28. Ensure that adequate funding is available to continue recent efforts to support farmers' markets.
29. Develop a strategy to deal with invasive species, specifically saltwater and freshwater species.

Summary of Recommendations

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services recommends to the Legislative Assembly that the provincial government:

Fiscal Policy

1. Balance the provincial budget by 2013/14.
2. Consider the recommendations of the Expert Panel on BC's Business Tax Competitiveness.
3. Look for opportunities to streamline the administration of PST, particularly as it relates to the business sector, while maintaining the principle of returning to the PST as it existed prior to HST implementation.
4. Consider, as part of the Finance Minister's Carbon Tax Review, the submissions received by this Committee on the carbon tax.

Health

5. Review the funding model for community hospices and ensure that funding is provided in an equitable and predictable manner.
6. Increase homecare services to save hospital costs as these services are less expensive than hospital beds.
7. Provide support for community-based agencies that provide addiction treatment services, using a community health and wellness approach.
8. Work with the BCMA and medical colleges to improve residency and internship opportunities for British Columbian medical students trained abroad.
9. Develop short- and long-term water supply solutions for the Kelowna and surrounding region so that quality drinking water is provided practically, cost effectively and to provincial and federal standards.

Education and Skills Training

10. Develop a provincial career-training model to meet the educational needs of high-school students, based on the Northern Opportunities partnership model, and fund it accordingly.
11. Commission research on the number of children entering kindergarten with developmental and learning challenges and take action on the results.
12. Undertake research into graduation rates for immigrant youth in the K-12 school system.
13. Continue support for seismic upgrades in K-12 schools.
14. Resolve fiscal and accounting standard issues that continue to create challenges for post-secondary institutions' ability to manage their budgets prudently and to access capital outside of government.

15. Continue to provide access to post-secondary education opportunities and address affordability issues affecting students.

16. Reinstate the separate budget line for public libraries.

Community and Social Services

17. Continue annual funding for sport, as provided by the 2010 Sport and Arts Legacy Fund, in the next three-year budget plan and base budget of the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development.

18. Review and streamline the RFP procurement policy for not-for-profit community service providers, and consider eliminating the monthly invoicing and payment systems for agencies that have been accredited for three or more consecutive years.

19. Provide funding for transition houses and women's centres to meet increasing demands for community-based services.

Economic Development

20. Ensure adequate resources are in place for key permitting ministries to eliminate the permitting backlog and also with particular focus to ensure the retention of expert staff so critical to the process.

21. Partner with other levels of government to ensure that appropriate community infrastructure and services are developed in areas anticipating major growth from natural resource development.

22. Continue providing funding for infrastructure development and target funds for high priority projects that will enhance BC's international trade potential.

23. Develop Internet connectivity and cell phone coverage to enhance economic development opportunities and emergency preparedness.

Other Budget Priorities

24. Provide stable and long-term funding for the justice system, including support and programs to ensure equitable access and alternative dispute resolutions.

25. Support and provide funding for restorative justice programs.

26. Make sure that the province achieves the most effective economic benefits from the Provincial Nominee Program in meeting BC labour market demands.

27. Work to ensure that employment standards and occupational health and safety regulations are extended to and enforced for temporary foreign workers residing in British Columbia.

28. Ensure that adequate funding is available to continue recent efforts to support farmers' markets.

29. Develop a strategy to deal with invasive species, specifically saltwater and freshwater species.

Appendix A: Public Hearing Witnesses

Aboriginal Sports, Recreation and Physical Activity Partners Council, Karen Nyce, 16-Oct-12 (Smithers)

Academic Workers' Union, Rocque Berthiaume, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)

Accountability Council for Co-operative Education of BC, Norah McRae, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

Ad Hoc Committee on Capital Funding for Surrey Schools, Nancy Peirce, Linda Stromberg, 17-Sep-12 (Surrey, BC)

Alliance for Arts and Culture, Rob Gloor, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)

Alma Mater Society of UBC Vancouver, Kyle Warwick, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

Alzheimer Society of British Columbia, Jean Blake, Jim Mann, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)

Amata Transition House Society, Ellen Facey, 03-Oct-12 (Quesnel)

Erik Andersen, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)

Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC, John Leech, 17-Oct-12 (Courtenay)

Ernie Archer, 15-Oct-12 (Kitimat)

Association for Reformed Political Action Canada, Mark Penninga, 16-Oct-12 (Smithers)

Association of Consulting Engineering Companies of BC, Steve Fleck, Cameron Gatey, 04-Oct-12 (Kamloops)

Automotive Retailers Association, Ken McCormack, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)

B.C. Association for Community Living, Faith Bodnar, Annette Delaplace, Sky Hensbee, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)

B.C. Government and Service Employees' Union, Michael Eso, Darryl Walker, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)

Roger Bandl, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)

BC Agriculture Council, Rhonda Driediger, Reg Ens, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)

BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres, Paul Lacerte, Bruce Parisian, Barbara Ward-Burkitt, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres: Vernon First Nations Friendship Centre, Laura Hockman, 20-Sep-12 (Vernon)

BC Association of Farmers' Markets, Bruce Fatkin, Elizabeth Quinn, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)

BC Bison Association, Bruce Court, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)

BC Colleges, Jim Reed, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

BC Food Processors Association, Dave Eto, Nico Human, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)

BC Games Society, Linda Hepner, 17-Sep-12 (Surrey, BC)

BC Grain Producers Association, Janet Banman, Irmgard Critcher, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)

BC Sustainable Energy Association, Guy Dauncey, Tom Hackney, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

Stephanie Bertels, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Board of Education, School District No. 73 (Kamloops/Thompson), Dawn Campbell, Kris Hartley, Kelsey Pozzobon, Sherry Stade, 04-Oct-12 (Kamloops)

BrainTrust Canada Association, Laurie Denton, Maribeth Friesen, Magda Kapp, 19-Sep-12 (Kelowna)

British Columbia Chamber of Commerce, Jon Garson, John Winter, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

British Columbia College of Chiropractors; British Columbia Chiropractic Association, Dr. Don Nixdorf, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)

British Columbia Construction Association, Manley McLachlan, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)

British Columbia Dental Association, Jocelyn Johnston, Dr. Richard Wilczek, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)

British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association, Kirpal Boparai, Glen Lucas, 19-Sep-12 (Kelowna)

British Columbia Library Trustees Association, Lori Phillips, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)

British Columbia Medical Association, Dr. William Cunningham, 17-Sep-12 (Surrey, BC)

British Columbia School Trustees Association, Michael McEvoy, Sherri Moore-Arbour, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

British Columbia Teachers' Federation, Larry Kuehn, Susan Lambert, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

British Columbia Trappers Association, Mike Morris, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)

Bulkley Valley Teachers' Union, Karin Bachman, 16-Oct-12 (Smithers)

Business Council of British Columbia, Ken Peacock, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

Camosun College, Kathryn Laurin, Peter Lockie, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

Campbell River Association for Community Living, Greg Hill, 17-Oct-12 (Courtenay)

Campbell River Hospice Society, Julie Collis, Iona Wharton, 17-Oct-12 (Courtenay)

Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), BC Committee, Kevin Harrington, Peter Simpson, John Willow, 17-Oct-12 (Courtenay)

Canadian Bar Association - British Columbia Branch, Caroline Nevin, Kerry Simmons, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Canadian Cancer Society, BC and Yukon, Erin Hemmens, Kathryn Seely, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)

Canadian Federation of Independent Business, Shachi Kurl, Nicole Nash, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)

Canadian Federation of Students, British Columbia, Ian Boyko, Katie Marocchi, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)

Canadian Federation of the Blind, Mary Ellen Gabias, Paul Gabias, 19-Sep-12 (Kelowna)

Canadian Home Builders' Association of British Columbia, M.J. Whitemarsh, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society - BC Chapter, Chloe O'Loughlin, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Canadian Red Cross Society, Kimberlee Nemrava, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)

Canadian Sport Centre Pacific, Wendy Pattenden, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)

Canadian Taxpayers Federation, Jordan Bateman, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)

Canadian Wind Energy Association, Nicholas Heap, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Capilano University Students' Union, David Clarkson, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Carbon Talks, Shauna Sylvester, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Castlegar Hospice Society, Suzanne Lehbauer, 18-Sep-12 (Castlegar)

Cement Association of Canada, Darren Brown, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)

Chevron Canada, Dave Schick, Fern Tom, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Child Development Centre of Prince George and District, Darrell Roze, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)

City of Cranbrook, Mayor Wayne Stetski, 18-Sep-12 (Cranbrook)

City of Fort St. John, Mayor Lori Ackerman, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)

City of Prince Rupert, Mayor Jack Mussallem, Dan Rodin, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)

Climate Smart Businesses Inc., Martin Schroder, Elizabeth Sheehan, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC, Sharon Gregson, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)

Coast Forest Products Association, Susan Gagnon, Rick Jeffery, 17-Sep-12 (Surrey, BC)

College of the Rockies, Orest Federko, Dianne Teslak, 18-Sep-12 (Cranbrook)

College of the Rockies Faculty Association, Leslie Molnar, 18-Sep-12 (Cranbrook)

Rosemary Collins, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Columbia Valley Chamber of Commerce, Susan Clovechok, 18-Sep-12 (Cranbrook)

Comox Valley Chamber of Commerce, Dianne Hawkins, Bob Scales, 17-Oct-12 (Courtenay)

Comox Valley Child Development Association, Lorraine Aitken, 17-Oct-12 (Courtenay)

Comox Valley Hospice Society, Terri Odeneal, 17-Oct-12 (Courtenay)

Concerned Citizens for Addiction Care, Peggy Davenport, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)

Confederation of University Faculty Associations of British Columbia, Robert Clift, Dr. Richard Kool, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)

Construction, Maintenance and Allied Workers Union, Local 1735, Ken Lippett, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)

Coquitlam Teachers' Association, Jason Giles, Teresa Grandinetti, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)

Laura Corenish, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Council of Senior Citizens' Organizations of BC, Jerry Gosling, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)

Cowichan Valley Hospice Society; Vancouver Island Federation of Hospices, Gretchen Hartley, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)

Creative BC Coalition, Margaret Reynolds, Liz Shorten, Sylvia Skene, 17-Oct-12 (Courtenay)

Dakelh and Quesnel Community Housing Society, Luanne Ruotsalainen, 03-Oct-12 (Quesnel)

David Suzuki Foundation, Ian Bruce, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Jim Davidson, 16-Oct-12 (Smithers)
Decoda Literacy Solutions, Leona Gadsby, Brenda Le Clair, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)
District of Taylor, Mayor Fred Jarvis, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)
Downtown Surrey Business Improvement Association, Elizabeth Model, 17-Sep-12 (Surrey, BC)
Dze L K'ant Friendship Centre Society, Annette Morgan, 16-Oct-12 (Smithers)
East Kootenay Invasive Plant Council, Chris Bosman, Marty Hafke, 18-Sep-12 (Cranbrook)
Faculty Association of the College of New Caledonia, Jan Mastromatteo, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)
Federation of Community Social Services of BC, Dr. David Hay, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)
Federation of Independent School Associations - BC, Dr. Peter Froese, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)
Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC, Phillip Legg, Cindy Oliver, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)
First Call: BC Child and Youth Advocacy Coalition, Adrienne Montani, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)
Fort Nelson and District Chamber of Commerce, Jeremy Cote, Bev Vandersteen, 25-Sep-12 (Victoria)
Fort St. John and District Chamber of Commerce, Brent Hodson, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)
FortisBC, David Bennett, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)
Fraser Valley Real Estate Board, Ray Werger, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)
Geoscience BC, Dr. 'Lyn Anglin, 17-Sep-12 (Surrey, BC)
Dr. Mychael Gleeson, 17-Sep-12 (Surrey, BC)
Greater Victoria Chamber of Commerce, Bruce Carter, Oriane Fort, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)
Tanya Gregoire, 20-Sep-12 (Vernon)
Arthur Hadland, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)
Haisla Nation Council, Councillor Ellis Ross, 15-Oct-12 (Kitimat)
Harwin Elementary School, Marnie Alexander, Kailee Patterson, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)
Haven Society, Dawn Clark, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)
Trevor Hirschfield, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)
Imperial Metals Corporation, Byng Giraud, 16-Oct-12 (Smithers)
Independent Living Vernon, Laura Hockman, 20-Sep-12 (Vernon)
Infertility Awareness Association of Canada, Rita Schnarr, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)
Richard Ingram, 19-Sep-12 (Kelowna)
Initiatives Prince George, Dr. Charles Jago, Ken Kilcullen, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)
Insurance Bureau of Canada, Serge Corbeil, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)
Terry Intermela, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)
International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication - Canada, Jeff Riley, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)
Island Coastal Economic Trust, Rob Hutchins, Line Robert, Dallas Smith, 17-Oct-12 (Courtenay)
Kamloops Society for Alcohol and Drug Services, Sian Lewis, 04-Oct-12 (Kamloops)
Kamloops Thompson Teachers' Association, Susie Corbet, 04-Oct-12 (Kamloops)
Kelowna Joint Water Committee, Bob Hrasko, Gordon Ivans, Gerry Zimmermann, 19-Sep-12 (Kelowna)
Morgan Kennah, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)
KidSport Tri-Cities: KidSport BC, Chris Wilson, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)
Kitimat and Bulkley Valley Child Development Centres, Margaret Warcup, 15-Oct-12 (Kitimat)
Kitimat Health Advocacy Group, Rob Goffinet, 15-Oct-12 (Kitimat)
Kootenay Lawn Doctor Inc., Paul Visentin, 18-Sep-12 (Cranbrook)
Kwantlen Faculty Association; Federation of Post-Secondary Educators of BC, Phillip Legg, Joel Murray, 17-Sep-12 (Surrey, BC)
Langley Teachers' Association, Gail Chaddock-Costello, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)
Peter Lawless, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)
Jim Little, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)
Métis Commission for Children and Families of BC, Meredith Haaf, 04-Oct-12 (Kamloops)
Troy Mick, 25-Sep-12 (Victoria)
Mining Association of British Columbia, Karina Brino, 04-Oct-12 (Kamloops)
Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC, Paul Klassen, Peter Leitch, Cheryl Nex, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)
Nanaimo District Teachers' Association, Justin Green, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)

New Focus Society, Pat Colbourne, 03-Oct-12 (Quesnel)
Peter Nix, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)
Des Nobels, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)
North Coast Transition Society, April Link, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)
North Island College, Dr. Jan Lindsay, 17-Oct-12 (Courtenay)
North Peace Justice Society, Michelle LaBoucane, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)
North Vancouver Teachers' Association, Ian Cunliffe, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)
Northern Lights College, Laurie Rancourt, 25-Sep-12 (Victoria)
Northern Rockies Regional Municipality, Colin Griffith, Mayor Bill Streeper, 25-Sep-12 (Victoria)
Northwest Community College, Dr. Denise Henning, Cathay Sousa, 15-Oct-12 (Kitimat)
Northwest Community College Students' Union, Kathryn Chicoine, Joe Daniels, Mikael Jensen, Inez Shanoss, 15-Oct-12 (Kitimat)
Okanagan College, Allan Coyle, Bob Evy, Lance Kayfish, 19-Sep-12 (Kelowna)
Okanagan College Faculty Association, Sharon Josephson, 19-Sep-12 (Kelowna)
Nancy Olewiler, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)
ORCA Children's Advocacy Centre Society, Fred Ford, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)
Organizing for Change, Lisa Matthaus, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)
PacificSport Interior BC, Jack Miller, 04-Oct-12 (Kamloops)
PacificSport Northern BC, Tom Muirhead, Craig Noonan, Dr. Anne Pousette, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)
PacificSport Okanagan, Jim Gabriel, Doug Nicholas, 19-Sep-12 (Kelowna)
PacificSport Vancouver Island, Drew Cooper, 17-Oct-12 (Courtenay)
Parksville and District Chamber of Commerce, Kim Burden, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)
Peace River Regional District, Karen Goodings, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)
Peace River South Teachers' Association, Lorraine Mackay, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)
Pembina Institute, Matt Horne, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)
Lynn Perrin, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)
John Peterson, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)
Prince George Chamber of Commerce, Jennifer Brandle-McCall, Dr. Bill McGill, Bill Quinn, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)
Prince George District Teachers' Association, Matt Pearce, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)
Prince George Hospice Society, Karen Beeson, Donalda Carson, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)
Prince George Native Friendship Centre, Barbara Ward-Burkitt, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)
Prince Rupert and District Chamber of Commerce, Carol Bulford, Jason Scherr, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)
Prince Rupert and District Teachers' Union, Joanna Larson, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)
Prince Rupert Friendship House Association, Farley Stewart, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)
Prince Rupert Port Authority, Ken Veldman, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)
Private Forest Landowners Association, Rod Bealing, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)
Professional Arts Alliance of Greater Victoria, Patrick Corrigan, Peter Sandmark, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)
Quesnel and District Chamber of Commerce, Graeme Armstrong, 03-Oct-12 (Quesnel)
Quesnel and District Hospice Palliative Care Association, Sally Service, Carol Weremy, 03-Oct-12 (Quesnel)
Quesnel District Teachers Association, Teri Mooring, 03-Oct-12 (Quesnel)
Quesnel Tillicum Society Native Friendship Centre, Sandy Brunton, 03-Oct-12 (Quesnel)
Quesnel Women's Resource Centre, Susan Scott, 03-Oct-12 (Quesnel)
Real Estate Board of Greater Vancouver, Harriet Permut, Jim Woolsey, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)
Residents Advocating for a Safe Inclusive Environment, Tina Brower, Diana Penner, 15-Oct-12 (Kitimat)
Retail Council of Canada; Shelfspace, Mark Startup, 02-Oct-12 (Abbotsford)
Jennifer Rice, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)
Rick Hansen Foundation; Rick Hansen Institute, Colin Ewart, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)
Royal Roads University, Dr. Allan Cahoon, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

Save Our Northern Seniors, Jean Leahy, Margaret Little, 03-Oct-12 (Fort St. John)

Selkirk College, Barry Auliffe, Mike Dion, Cathy Mercer, 18-Sep-12 (Castlegar)

SHARE Family and Community Services, Martin Wyant, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)

Ken Shaw, 15-Oct-12 (Prince Rupert)

Shore Energy Solutions, Ian Gartshore, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)

Simon Fraser University, Joanne Curry, Nicole Rogers, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

Skate Canada British Columbia/Yukon, Ted Barton, 17-Sep-12 (Surrey, BC)

Smithers Public Library Board of Trustees, Wally Bergen, Lorraine Doiron, 16-Oct-12 (Smithers)

South Fraser Community Services Society, Wes Everaars, Shayne Williams, 17-Sep-12 (Surrey, BC)

Sport BC, Twyla Ryan, 18-Sep-12 (Cranbrook)

John Sternig, 04-Oct-12 (Kamloops)

Gordon Stewart, 16-Oct-12 (Smithers)

Success By 6, Sheila Glen, Trish Rodie, 04-Oct-12 (Kamloops)

Surrey Board of Trade, Anita Huberman, 17-Sep-12 (Surrey, BC)

Sustainable Prosperity, Brandon Schaufele, Alexander Wood, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

Tamitick Status Women Association, Cherly Rumley, 15-Oct-12 (Kitimat)

The Research Universities' Council of BC, Robin Ciceri, Dr. David Turpin, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

Thompson Rivers University, Robert Holden, Dr. Alan Shaver, 04-Oct-12 (Kamloops)

Thompson Rivers University Faculty Association, Jason Brown, 04-Oct-12 (Kamloops)

Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, Alex McLellan, Dylan Robinson, 04-Oct-12 (Kamloops)

Tides Canada, Merran Smith, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce, Dennis Marsden, Richard Rainey, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)

Tri-City Transitions Society, Carol Metz Murray, 02-Oct-12 (Coquitlam)

UBCC350.org, James Boak, Dr. Kathryn Harrison, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

University of Northern British Columbia, Kallie Smith, John Turner, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)

University of Victoria Students' Society, Kelsey Mech, Lucia Orser, 17-Oct-12 (Parksville)

Vancouver Board of Education, School District No. 39, Patti Bacchus, Steve Cardwell, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Vancouver Community College, Doug Callbeck, Kathy Kinloch, Bill Radford, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

ViaSport British Columbia, Scott Ackles, Moira Gookstetter, 01-Oct-12 (Vancouver)

Victoria Real Estate Board, Shelley Mann, Ian Mason, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

Wachiay Friendship Centre, Michael Colclough, Roger Kishi, 17-Oct-12 (Courtenay)

Wellness in Northern BC Task Force, Dr. Bert Kelly, Dr. Anne Pousette, 16-Oct-12 (Prince George)

West Coast Environmental Law, Andrew Gage, 18-Oct-12 (Victoria)

Appendix B: Written Submissions

Abbotsford Arts Council, Gail Gromaski
Aboriginal Infant and Supported Child Development Provincial Office, Cindy Jamieson
Ashley Adamson
Advocis (Financial Advisors Association of Canada), Peter Tzanetakis
Allen Aicken
Janet Aitken
Dr. Roland Alcock
Christine Allenby
Colin Allenby
Gail Angevine
Animal Defense and Anti-Vivisection Society of BC, Anne Birthistle
Arts Coalition of BC, Rob Gloor
ArtsBC/Assembly of BC Arts Councils, Joan Richoz
Association for Mineral Exploration BC, Gavin Dirom
Kody Baker
John Baldwin
David Bancroft
David Barnes
Timothy Bartoo
BAYLO Brain Injury Group, Sheryl Ann Wilson
BC Association of Child Development and Intervention, Jason Gordon
BC Association of Institutes and Universities, Ruth Wittenberg
BC Council of the Canadian Federation of University Women, Jeannette Mergens
BC Healthy Living Alliance, Connie Abram, Marie Crawford, Stephanie Hudson, Barbara Kaminsky, Diego Marchese, Scot McDonald, John Millar, Suzanne Allard Strutt, Kristen Yarker
BC Interactive Task Force, Lance Davis
BC Recreation and Parks Association, Suzanne Allard Strutt
BC Sustainable Energy Association, Kamloops Chapter, Cheryl Kabloona
Thomas H. Benjamin
Maria Besso
Darla Blace
Jennifer Black
Board of Education, School District No. 38 (Richmond), June Kaiser
Board of Education, School District No. 46 (Sunshine Coast), Silas White
Barry Brandow
Brentwood College School, David McCarthy
British Columbia Arts Council, Stanley Hamilton
British Columbia Choral Federation, David Stewart
British Columbia Cycling Coalition, Richard Campbell
British Columbia Library Association, June Stockdale
British Columbia Real Estate Association, Robert Laing
British Columbia Wharf Operators' Association, Bob Wilds
Craig Brodie
Hilary Brown
James Bryan
James Buchanan
Vern Buchholz
Joop Burgerjon
Jane Burnside
Russ Burtnick
Heidi Calzavara
Cathy and Mark Campbell
Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers, David Daly, Geoff Morrison, Dave Pryce
Canadian Bankers Association, Terry Campbell, Tim Downing
Canadian Beverage Association, Brandon Ashmore
Canadian Diabetes Association, Quincey Kirschner
Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association Inc., Peggy McFarland, Frank Swedlove
Canadian Union of Public Employees, BC Division, Barry O'Neill
Erin Carlson
Carrier Sekani Tribal Council, Allen Billy
Don Cavers
Ilie and Maria Chifan
Mary P. Chipman
Jackie Chow
Peter Christensen
Cineworks Independent Filmmakers' Society, Amy Fung
City of Surrey, Dianne Watts
Tim Clarke
Dave Clendenan
Don Clogg
Marian Collins
Cory and Kathy Couture
Chris Cowan
Chris Cowland
Lesah Curatolo
Russ Curtis
Bill Darnell
Teri Dawe

Dr. Geoff de Ruiter
AJ Decker
Delta Hospice Society, Nancy Macey
Desert Valley Hospice Society, Janet Shaw
Angie Dhami
Angelo DiPlacito
Fraser Doerksen
Eric Doherty
Elizabeth Donald
Tiago Dos Santos
Jim Douglas
John Dove
Emily Doyle
Jonathan Doyle
Katherine Doyle
Kelly Doyle
Michelle Dumond
Earl Marriott Parent Advisory Council, Stacey MacDonald
Elders Council for Parks in British Columbia, Colin Campbell
Dr. S. Ellard
Manuel Erickson
Beth Faich-Nielsen
Iha Farquhar
Federation of British Columbia Writers, Candice James
Dorothy Field
First Nations Friendship Centre Vernon, Wendy Antoine
Judy Fisher
Thora Fleming
Gail Flowers
Fort St. John Public Library, L.J. Lawson
Neil Frazer
Edward Frey
Alejandro Frid
Douglas Fromson
Joseph Full
Bianca Gagnon
Bryan Gallagher
Donald J. Gamble
Brenda Gammon
Steve Garnett
Gateway Council (Greater Vancouver Gateway Society), Bob Wilds
Robert Gibbs
Janis Gilbert
Hans Goldberg
Mary P. Gradnitzer
Ann Grant
Bruce Gray
Allysa Gredling
Garry Haas
Urs Hafeli
Shelley Hall
Hamilton Duncan Armstrong and Stewart Law Corporation, James Stewart
Fabian Hanggi
John Hay
Alex Hayer
Isabelle Hayer
Sonia Hayer
Penny Hazle
Janet Henri
James Bruce Hermon
Chris Higgins
Derek Hill, Greg Hill, Jesse Hill, Betsy Johnson
Chris Ho
Tony Hoar
Mark Holmes
Hope & Area Transition Society, Gerry Dyble
Janet Hudgins
Duncan Hume
Theresia Hurst
Lynn Husted
Imperial Tobacco Canada Limited, Sophie Roux
Incipe Workers' Cooperative, Kevin Harding
Institute of Chartered Accountants of BC, Kerri Brkich Wilcox
Simona Ionita
Andrea Jackson
Chris Jackson
Cornelius Jansen
Diane Jeffrey-Nicholls
Julie Johnston
Joint labour union/environmental organization, Matt Horne
Blaire Jones
Brad Jones
Don Jones
Jubilate! Chamber Choir, Joanne Kirkham
Kaslo and District Public Library, Joe Johnston, Eva Kelemen
Rowan Keegan-Henry
Kelowna Chamber of Commerce, Caroline Grover
Bryce Kendrick
Anne Kent
David Kidd
Killarney Community School Team, Brenda Devine
King George Community School Team, Tyson Shmyr
Pamela Kryskow
Esa Kuusisto
Jessica Lamb
Nancy Laviolette
Brenda Lee
Buddy Lee
Cathy Lee
Chad Legebokoff
Al Lehmann
John Lerner
Shelagh Levey
Debbie Low
Marianne Lund
Leila Lustig
Jackie MacDonald
Marcia MacDonald
Stacey C. MacDonald
Jean MacIntyre
Jodi MacLean
Michael Marcoux
Jamie Marshall

Massage Therapists' Association of BC, Brenda Locke
Katharine McCallion
Maine McEachern
Jeanie McKay
Ken McLennan
Meadowbrook Community Association, Robert Johnstone
Lisa Mercure
Dr. Beat P. Mertz
Jane Mertz
Andrew Meszaros
Natan Meszaros
Veronica Meszaros
Migrante-British Columbia, Jane Ordinario
Sladjan Milatovic
Stan Miller
Dr. Ray Morris
Michelle Munch
Barret Murdock
Carolyn Murdock
Colin Murdock
Ronda Murdock
Elizabeth Murphy
Music BC, Bob D'Eith
Henry Kanjobe Mwandemere
Nanaimo Brain Injury Society, Mark Busby
Nanaimo Child Development Centre Society, Michael Robinson
Robert and Helen Nation
Sam Nelles
Oceanside Hospice Society, Lynn Wood
Stan Olson
Carly O'rourke
Pacific Association of Artist Run Centres, Doug Jarvis
Pacific Rim Hospice Society, Kim Hoag
Ken Packford
Ron Pascoe
Lynda Paul
Thomas S. Peach
Jane Pedersen
Alex Peter
Jackie Pinckney
Marjorie Plante
John Plaus
Larry Pommen
Port Metro Vancouver, Duncan Wilson
Claudette Preece
Emmanuel Prinet
Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council, Aidan Carlton, Tanya Gregoire, Lucy Heffernan, Gladys Joe, Jeff Nicholls, Serena Read
Jeurgen Puetter
Barbara Purdy
Roger M. Purdy
Quesnel Shelter and Support Society, Melanie MacDonald
Mark William Rankin
Sue Rhea
Debra Rizzo
Tim Roberts
Myrna Robinson
Scott Robinson
Chris Rose
Gili Rosenberg
Kelly Rosvold
Cam Roxburgh
Gisela Ruckert
Geraldine Sand
Jesse Sawyer
Heather Schamehorn
Stefan Seller
Linda Sheehy
Natasha Siame
Har Singh
Tom Sirdevan
Greg Skala
Gregory Skala
Slocan Valley Early Childhood Community Advisory Council, Penny Tees
Maureen Smith
R Forrest Smith
Lorraine Sommers
South Okanagan Chamber of Commerce, Bonnie Dancey
Alvin Stedel
Rosy Steinhauer
Stikine Teachers' Association, Asa Berg
Trevor Stubbings
Tom Sundher
Rafe Sunshine
Surrey Libraries, Jason Cheema, Melanie Houlden
Bud Taylor
Terrace Hospice Society, Carolyn Brown, Penny Dobbin, Magali Fleming, Shirlee Lindsay, Norene Parke, Dr. Emily Rice, David Try, Diane Wood
Alison Thibodeau
Carmen Thompson
Tumbler Ridge Community Arts Council, Sherry Berringer
Dennis Tupman
Urban Development Institute Pacific Region, Anne McMullin
Vancouver Board of Trade, Ken Martin
Vancouver Public Library, Catherine Evans
Michelle Vega
Jon Washburn
West Coast Women's Legal Education and Action Fund, Laura Track
Western Convenience Store Association, Andrew Klukas
Whistler Arts Council, Joan Richoz
Elizabeth White
Robin White
Shawn Wiese
Chris Williams
Patti Willis
Annette Witteman
Anita Wolfe

Chestina Wong
Amy Woodruffe
Calvin Wray
Dean Wutke
Bruce Wyder
Young Communist League of Canada (British Columbia Provincial Committee), Erin Searle
Pamela Zevit
Regan-Heng Zhang
Alicia Zigay

Appendix C: On-line Survey Respondents

Christine Abrams
Ashley Adamson
Cheryl Adebar
Seneca Ambers
Colin Angel
Anne Appenheimer
Carol Arnold
David Bancroft
Bob Barnard
Cara Barter
Kerston Beattie
Eileen Beaudine
Marg Beddis
Tom Berkhout
Louise Bernamoff
Richard Biel
Leo Boissy
Julie Bond
Delle Booth
Steve Borley
Kelly Bosello
Jennifer Boulanger
Bridge Youth and Family Services, Corinne Dolman
Alexander Brown
Anastasia Burke
Danna Burton
Jon Campbell
Richelle Campbell
Dawn Carson
Tooie Casavant
Central Coast Teachers' Association, Marc Hedges
Jason Chow
Nancy Church
Andrew Clark
Andrew Clarke
Michael Colclough
Andrea Courage
Kevin Creery
Erin Cullingworth
Jennifer Cummins
Lisa Cunnian
Grace Cunningham
Tim Daniel
Wanda Davis
Nick De Vita
Courtenay Dennis
Richard Dennison
Tim Dow
Lori Dowler
Susan Downing
Sharon D'Souza
Sonya Dunn
Lorena Duran
Beth Dye
Kate Dyson
Jesse Easter
Robert Edge
Karl Emde
Anjuli Enthoven
Chris Evan
Peter Fassnacht
Anna Feddema
Raphael Fernandez
Mike Filion
Kimball Finigan
Rick Fleming
Shelley Flynn
Linda Follack
Fort St. John Friendship Society, Anita Lee
Stefanie Fournier
Diane Franceschini
Fraser Cascade Teachers' Association, Lynne Marvell
Lorne Freedman
Tom Freeman
Genevieve Friesen
Russell Furse
Shannon Gallie
Neil Gardner
Brian Gavin
Damian George
Laurie Geschke
Amandeep Gill
Christine Glazier
Anne Glover
Bob Goos
Vincent Gorman
Dayna Gray
Anica Grenzberg
Dustin Griffin
VJ Grimes
Shelien Hadfield
Sean Hayes
Patrick Heide
Jennifer Heiden
Susan Hooper
Sasha Hopp
Leslie Hussmann
Suzanne James
Debbie Jay
Darin Johaneson
David Johnson
Lesley Johnson
Greer Kaiser
Elizabeth Kaller
Rebecca Kay
Kimberly Keen
Torrance Ken
Lorn Kennedy
Sandra Kirkegaard
Sherilyn Klassen
Janice Koch
Leon Kopy
Jared Kreshewski
Patricia Kristinsson
Toni Kristinsson
Fran Kwiecien
Dora Kwok
Kathryn Lacerte
Bruce Lacroix
Dan Laidlaw
Arlene Laing
Lynn Lang
Joanne Lapointe
Ken Lawson
Audrey Lear
Leslie Learmonth
Dina Lenning
Corinna Leonard
Craig Leverman
Jill Lewis
Wendy Long
Julie Luciani
M. Lunde
Martine Lunke
Bruce MacDonald
Bill MacGougan
Peter Maddrell
Mary Magee
Don Mah
Glenn Mahoney
Don Maitland
Glen Makiri
Howard Mallett
Eva Marcinowski
Lindsey Martin
Frances McCoubrey
Moira McDermott
Delta McDonell
Pauline McDougall
Barbara McFarlin-Kosiec
Jocelyn McIntosh
Derik Mckay
Linda McMullan
Carri McMullen
Kevin McPhedran
Kendra Mcphee
Monica McSween
Cynthia Mendoza
Peter Mentz
Saera Michael
John Mikulasik
Aharon Millar
Gregory Millard
D. Miller
Dana Miller
Lindsay Miller
Janet Ann Milliken
Blair Mirau
Mission Friendship Centre Society, Nicole Kiniski, Sean Russell
Angela Moore
Evie Moore
Sharron Moraes
Andree Morezewich
Barry Morhart
Julie Morris
Lois Morrison
Fiona Mosher
Trina Moulin
Steve Mulligan
Pam Munroe
Sherry Murphy
Joanne Murrell
Les Nerling
Ellen Newman
Carey Nickerson
Jennifer Nixon
Sherri Norbury
Geoff Orme
Patricia Outram
Nathan Pachal
Rajkumar Padmanabhan
Helen Page
Rick Papineau
Hugo Paquin
Roger Parke
J. Parker
Joanne Parkman
T. Patrick
J. Pawar
Chris Pennell

Allen Peters
Michel Petit
Patrick Phillips
Tim Pincin
Dorte Pittaway
Raymond W. Pledger
Paula Poikonen
Julie Anne Ponting
Della Preston
Jocelyn Pritchard
Gary Raddysh
Kirsten Rehnby
Marjorie Reimer
Shelley Renard
Caren Rennie
Kathleen Ritchie
Nicole Robert-Mortimer
Julie Robertson
Eva Robinson
Jana Ronne
Anne Ross
Susan Russell
Barb Ryeburn
Marie Sabine
Heather Sapergia
Roy Scafe
Rene Schwarz
Timothy Scolnick
Semiahmoo House Society, Paul Wheeler
Shana Semrick
Heinz Senger
Ian Sharpe
Ivy Shaughnessy
Samir Shayan
Leslie Shedden
Cheryl Shewchuk
Jeff Shoub
Kate Siddall
Rolynda Simpson
James Skwarok
David Slade
Jill Smalley
Andrea Smith
Laurie Smith
Carl Sommerfeld
Marnie Spino
Frances Stetson
David Stewart
Holly Stibbs
Chris Stromgren
Angus Stuart
Joel Sutcliffe
Margaret Sutton
Brent Taylor
Bryan Taylor
William Taylor
Katherine Tevaarwerk
Catherine Thompson
Andrea Thorburn
Dave Thumm
Earl Tourangeau
Pat Treacher
Andrew Tuck
Patricia Ursell
Eduardo van Dijk
Patricia Vance
Kate Veda
Ben Verkerk
Diane Villanyi
Wachiay Friendship Centre, Nancy Davie
Nancy Walton
Megan Warmerdam
Heidi Waterman
Alice Watson
Greg Wellwood
Steven Wilson
Louise Witt
Denise Wood
Jennifer Wyss
Mark Yang
Tracy Yarr
Amy Yiu

Appendix D: Video Submissions

BAYLO Brain Injury Group, Sheryl Ann Wilson
Tulayan, Rafael Aquino